

Appl. No. 10/016,051
Amdt. Dated August 25, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disposable undergarment comprising:

a skin-contactable surface;

a non skin-contactable surface opposed to the skin-contactable surface;

a liquid-impervious base ~~sheet~~ contoured by sheet;

longitudinally opposed end portions extending in a transverse direction and transversely opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction;

a liquid-absorbent panel ~~attached to said base sheet and lying on~~ positioned between said skin-contactable surface and said non skin-contacting surface; and

a pair of skin-contactable sheets which are attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment so as to cover said liquid-absorbent panel, said skin-contactable sheets being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and substantially liquid-impervious, said skin-contactable sheets having fixed surface areas and free surface areas between said fixed surface areas, said pair of skin-contactable sheets being attached under extension in said longitudinal direction at said fixed surface areas to said skin-contactable surface with said

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pair of skin-contactable sheets spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions so that said secured to said longitudinally opposite end portions and free surface areas extending between said fixed surface areas, which free surface areas are not fixed to said undergarment so as to be spaced apart upward from said liquid-absorbent panel as said undergarment curves in said longitudinal direction with its skin-contactable surface inside, inside; and

B1 a pair of substantially liquid-impervious leak-barrier cuffs spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment, said pair of leak-barrier cuffs being disposed between said base sheet and said skin-contactable sheets and attached in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface, said leak-barrier cuffs having fixed side edge portions fixed to said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment and extending in said longitudinal direction, free side edge portions being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and normally biased to rise on said skin-contactable surface and longitudinally opposite fixed end portions collapsed onto said skin-contactable surface and fixed to said longitudinally opposite end portions in a collapsed state so that said free surface areas of said skin-contactable sheets are kept spaced upward from said free side edge portions of said leak-barrier cuffs.

said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment being provided with regions in which said skin-contactable sheets are absent so that said skin-contactable surface inclusive of said liquid-absorbent panel is partially exposed in said regions in which said skin-contactable sheets are absent.

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Claim 2 (presently canceled)

Claim 3 (presently canceled)

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Claim ²4 (previously amended): The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said skin-contactable sheets comprise an elastically stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric.

Claim 5 (presently canceled, non-elected claim):